

## **Waterfowl distribution at multiple scales in the Georgia Basin Puget Sound.**

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Along the British Columbia coast, the Fraser River Delta is a keystone estuary for migrating and wintering waterfowl. Habitat loss and degradation continues in these estuaries requires conservation agencies to target resources both efficiently and effectively. Ducks Unlimited Canada in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Inc. initiated a research program in 2002 to better understand how waterfowl are using resources at the scale of the Fraser Delta and at the scale of the Georgia Basin Puget Sound. In the fall of 2003, 75 waterfowl (northern pintail, American wigeon) were fitted with radio backpacks in the Fraser Delta. Using ground and aerial telemetry equipment, the individual ducks were followed on a regular basis at the scale of the Fraser Delta and at the Georgia Basin - Puget Sound. The results demonstrate that waterfowl move at different spatial scales (Fraser Delta, Georgia Basin - Puget Sound) and temporal scales (daily, season) during the migrating and wintering periods. Therefore, consideration of scale is an important component in the conservation planning for waterfowl and other migrating birds.